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SUBJECT: GERMANY H1N1 FLU UPDATE: 251 CONFIRMED CASES

REF: A) Berlin 735, B) Berlin 720 and previous.

11. (SBU) SUMMARY: The number of H1N1 cases in Germany rose to 251 on June 19, as twenty-two further infections were confirmed. The majority of newly confirmed cases occurred in North Rhine-Westphalia. END SUMMARY.

12. (SBU) On June 19, the National Reference Center for Influenza at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) announced in its press briefing 22 new laboratory-confirmed cases of H1N1 for Germany. This increases the total number of confirmed cases in Germany to 251 (Refs A, B and previous). The new cases were distributed among the federal states as follows: North Rhine-Westphalia (18), Hesse (2), Berlin (1), Lower Saxony (1), Rhineland-Palatinate (1), and Bavaria (-1). (A previously confirmed H1N1 infection in Bavaria was found not to be the new flu.)

School closings due to H1N1 infection

13. (SBU) Media reports indicate that an entire school class in Munich (Bavaria) has been put under quarantine at home this week after an 18-year old student in the class tested positive for the flu. He reportedly had recently returned from a trip to the US.

14. (SBU) In Leer (Lower Saxony), a kindergarten has been closed after a female student passed the virus to a female teacher. The student had been infected by her 56-year-old grandmother, who had recently returned from a trip to the US and Mexico.

15. (SBU) A School in Wahnbeck (Lower Saxony) was also closed after a female teacher was confirmed to be infected with H1N1. The case was not connected to the infection in Leer, as the teacher had just returned from a trip to Central America.

North Rhine-Westphalia shows highest number of infections

16. (SBU) North Rhine-Westphalia remains the state showing the highest number of infections among all German states with 122 confirmed cases, followed by Bavaria (36 cases) and Baden-Wuerttemberg (26 cases). The number of cases resulting from human-human transmission of the virus inside Germany now sits at 131.

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